

# LOCAL ACTION FOR BIODIVERSITY

A SERIES OF LOCAL CASES



## City of Nagoya, Japan

### Biodiversity for well-being and sustainable livelihoods

**SUMMARY:** The City of Nagoya, with a population of 2.2 million, faces many pressures and threats to its urban biodiversity. However, Nagoya is proudly championing initiatives to ensure the well-being and sustainable lifestyles of its citizens. Informed by its basic environment targets, the City of Nagoya has implemented large scale reduction of city waste and encourages re-use, reduction and recycling of waste. Nagoya has also initiated eco-life activities to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> and greenhouse gas emissions.

### Biodiversity & biodiversity management in Nagoya



View of the downtown metropolitan area of Nagoya and the Higashiyama Forest area that spans 410ha.

#### Threats to biodiversity and well-being in Nagoya

Changes in land use, from agricultural to industrial, and the destruction of woodland areas to construct residences, has reduced green sites in Nagoya. A further threat to biodiversity is posed by foreign species threatening Japanese native species. An additional cause of concern is the increase in temperature of Nagoya City as a result of global warming and the “heat island” phenomena. The average temperature has risen by approximately 2.7 degrees over the last 100 years: roughly 3.5 times the average global increase. Given these threats, the City of Nagoya has undertaken various measures to create sustainable lifestyles.

#### Nagoya becomes an Eco-Capital

To become an “Eco-Capital” of Japan, in cooperation with local citizens, corporations and government, the City of Nagoya has drafted the Second Basic Environment Plan for Nagoya. To achieve the 2010 targets for biodiversity, the Basic Environment Plan specifies the following 3 action steps:

1. Action for sustainable lifestyles, such as the reduction of garbage and CO<sub>2</sub>, and the implementation of the Nagoya Water Cycle Recovery Plan;
2. Action to co-exist with nature, such as the preservation and wise use of wetlands, the regeneration of Higashiyama Zoo and Botanical Gardens, and the creation of managed Satoyama woodlands;
3. Action to develop human resources and build networks between people through environmental education and the Nagoya Eco-Campus.

#### Nagoya encourages eco-life activities

Nagoya is promoting eco-life activities to conserve the global environment for future generations. In 2005, under the slogan of “From Awareness to Action”, the city started to recognize citizens who practiced eco-life activities. By March 2007, about 390,000 citizens had declared their commitment and started taking action. Nagoya is also developing the “One More Time” campaign which aims to encourage citizens to reduce their CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, (through Eco-Life Messengers and an Eco-Life Declaration).

## Creating sustainable lifestyles for citizens of Nagoya

When Nagoya's Fujimae Tidal Flat was threatened with being converted to a landfill site, an "Emergency Announcement for Garbage Reduction" called for a substantial reduction in the amount of garbage in cooperation with the citizens, corporations and government, reducing its

### Nagoya reduces solid waste to save Fujimae Tidal Flat

Nagoya's Fujimae Tidal Flat provides a water-purifying function and also serves as one of the largest stopovers in Japan for migratory birds. Nagoya's reduction of solid waste has prolonged the usage of existing landfill sites, preserving of the Fujimae Tidal Flats (which were listed on the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance in 2002).

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solid waste by 30%, by 2005, exceeding initial targets. In addition, the volume of recyclable waste collected increased by 260 percent. To achieve this target, the whole city worked to reduce garbage, by expanding the separate collection of empty bottles and cans to cover the whole city, and starting the recycling of containers and packaging (paper and plastic) in advance of the rest of the country.



Fujimae Tidal Flat, internationally known as one of Japan's largest stopover sites for migratory birds. Photographer: Toyohisa Morii.

## Involvement in international initiatives

The City of Nagoya offered to host of the UNCBD COP-10 together with the national government. The Mayor of Nagoya was amongst the original five mayors to sign the 'Curitiba Declaration on Cities and Biodiversity' and thus acts on the respective Steering Committee. City of Nagoya is also an ICLEI member city and participates in ICLEI's Local Action for Biodiversity (LAB) Project.

## City contacts & profile



Working towards becoming a global eco-capital.

**THE CITY OF NAGOYA** lies on the Nobi Plain in the centre of Japan, covers an area of 326.45 km<sup>2</sup>. The area is composed of diverse landscapes, from the hilly area to the east and the central plateau, to the alluvial plains and reclaimed lands in the north, west and south. Nagoya's population numbers approximately 2.2 million and it is the fourth largest Japanese city.

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**LOCAL ACTION FOR BIODIVERSITY** is a global urban biodiversity initiative of ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability in cooperation with IUCN. This pilot project of 21 cities around the globe focuses on the key roles that local governments play in conserving the world's biodiversity and retaining the relationship between people and nature. See: [www.iclei.org/lab](http://www.iclei.org/lab); [lab@iclei.org](mailto:lab@iclei.org)

**COUNTDOWN 2010** is a powerful network of more than 600 partners working together towards the 2010 biodiversity target. Each partner commits additional efforts to tackle the causes of biodiversity loss. The secretariat – hosted by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) – facilitates and encourages action, promotes the importance of the 2010 biodiversity target and assesses progress towards 2010. See: [www.countdown2010.org](http://www.countdown2010.org)

**CITIES & BIODIVERSITY** is an initiative of local governments and UN agencies to increase awareness on the relevant role of cities and towns for conserving and managing biodiversity. See: [www.iclei.org/biodiversity](http://www.iclei.org/biodiversity)

**THE "CITIES & BIODIVERSITY CASE SERIES"** is started in 2008 on the occasion of the UNCBD Conference of the Parties (COP) 9 in Bonn/Germany in May 2008. Funding is provided by UNEP, with co-funding from ICLEI, IUCN and the City of Bonn. The case descriptions are compiled by the "Local Action for Biodiversity (LAB)" project team in the ICLEI Africa Secretariat and ICLEI's International Training Centre.

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